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OUR FRIENDS, THE ENGLISH.

We are indebted to an acquaintance in England for a copy of the London Daily News of January 24, that contains a strikingly singular editorial reference to the Venezuelan matter, and one that will do much to obliterate the sentiment still existing in the United States that England's boasted friendship for our country is largely mythical. Indeed, the Daily News is so decidedly pro-American in its views that there could not reasonably be any doubt of its sincerity. In unmistakable language it upholds our position in the contention that threatened a great world war and roundly scores its own government for becoming a party to the German scheme of forcible collection of the Venezuelan claims.

The bombardment of San Carlos was an outrage, says the London newspaper, and absolutely inexcusable. "The blockade," it continues, "ought to have been raised directly Mr. Bowen announced, as he did on his arrival at Washington, that he brought with him guarantees for a settlement of all claims that were satisfactorily established. It was an offense not only against good manners, but against all the usages of civilized states, to continue to make war—and we know that, in Mr. Ralston's view, the blockade is an act of war—when the accredited representative of Venezuela and the United States appeared on the scene with peace proposals in train for settlement. What are we to think, then, when Germany selects this moment of all others to announce to Venezuela and the world that there is no question of a breathing space by pouring in a storm of shell on a Venezuelan fort—an act which incidentally has led to great loss of life amongst the non-combatants?"

After insisting that England must decline to accept the glorification of German bluejackets and German honor as a consolation for the predicament in which the British nation has been placed, the Daily News avers that the position is not only of ignominy, but of very grave danger. Withdrawal of the British fleet is the only course left open for Lord Lansdowne, with or without German consent, for England's business is first with Mr. Bowen, and then with The Hague tribunal. "It is useless to argue that we are not responsible for Germany's methods," the Daily News points out. "An alliance is an alliance, and America and the rest of the world will reply that we are in the same boat with Germany, which could do nothing without our support, and they will be perfectly right. The essence of the situation is that, whilst Mr. Roosevelt has insisted on an arrangement by arbitration, Germany—with England and Italy in her wake—is doing all in her power to get a settlement at the cannon's mouth.

"Public opinion in America is being rapidly exasperated," concludes the Daily News, "and it is evident from the telegram of our Washington correspondent that Mr. Roosevelt's hands may be forced at any moment. Pressure is being brought to bear on him through the press and his supporters in congress and every shot fired by Germany is adding to the tension of the situation. We do not know how much longer the American people, whose friendship has been heavily taxed, will be disposed to draw distinctions between England and Germany; but every day that leaves us tied helplessly to Germany's heels is against us. Which is the better policy—to wait until Mr. Roosevelt asks us to dissociate ourselves from the power which has explicitly challenged the policy laid down by America, or to intimate at once our intention to abide by the findings of The Hague tribunal and to abandon the blockade?"

It is refreshing to observe that this influential journal is so straightforward in its declaration for peaceable settlement of the matter, and that it so frankly expresses its convictions. Our policy throughout has been a considerate one, and we are gratified to know that it finds substantial backing abroad. We heartily agree that, if England must form any alliances, it should turn to America rather than to the continental power that seems so anxious to make a display of force.

Difficulties besetting the ministry and regard to thinning congregations have been the subject of many sermons and contributions to the press, says the New York Commercial. That they are not overcome is made manifest by the continuance of the complaints and the innovations that are continually introduced to add to the attractiveness of the gospel in its customary garb of eloquent portrayal. Some ministers have even descended to sensationalism and for a time have drawn crowds, who came to hear half-truths told in a new way and garnished with startling phrase and unique metaphor. But it remained for an English preacher—the vicar of Clerkenwell—to rise ingeniously to the pinnacle of his ministerial troubles. His people failed to come to church because they had "nothing to wear." As soon as this congregational conclusion reached the ministerial ears he announced that services in his church would be held in the dark, that no woman might see what her neighbor had on. The church is absolutely unlighted from the assembling of the congregation till its departure. A stereopticon is used to enliven the services and by this means the subjects and psalms are announced. While the novelty lasts the vicar of Clerkenwell will doubtless preach to good congregations, but it will be an awful hardship on some of the flock of the innervation in vogue at Easter. It wouldn't do at all in the churches generally, for half one's pleasure is going to church to display one's nice clothes. Part of the other half is to quietly splice silken threads of business that may be woven into stout cords in subsequent days. Darkness wouldn't do for us, therefore. We cannot hide our light under a bushel when we go to church.

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For State Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 11 at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, February 14, at 4 o'clock p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, algebra, reading, school law, Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, bookkeeping, physics, civil government.
Friday—Physiology, geography, mental arithmetic, physical geography.
Saturday—Botany, plane geometry, general history, English literature, psychology.

For Country Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 11, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Friday, February 13, at 4 o'clock p. m. First, second and third grade certificates.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, orthography, reading.
Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, school law.
Friday—Geography, mental arithmetic, physiology, civil government.

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8:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 5:50 p.m.	Astoria for Warrenton, Pleasant, Port, Stevens, Hammond and Astoria
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